

Executed  
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10 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : View of Mr. Justice William O. Douglas

1. In the light of Mr. Justice Douglas' announced appearance on the CBS television show on CIA scheduled for Monday evening, 13 March, I would like to invite your attention to the Justice's comments on the Agency contained in his book Freedom of the Mind, published in 1964.

"The press does not cover the operations of the Pentagon adequately. Nor can it report truthfully on the Central Intelligence Agency. This agency has been more responsible than any other agency for foreign policy in the Middle East. Its movements are not known. The manner in which it intercedes in foreign elections with its moneybags is never reported. The reasons why it supports feudal regimes, the results of its policies, the dangers that it generates are not known even to many of the informed press.

"Secrecy of C. I. A. and Pentagon operations is defended on grounds of national security; and obviously matters of espionage and counterespionage, as well as many matters of defense, cannot be successful if they are news items. Yet why should the C. I. A. efforts to influence elections abroad be a secret to the American people when they are notorious in the foreign nation?

"This matter of secrecy of government information is a never-ending controversy. ... " (p. 8)

2. These thoughts probably reflect the line Mr. Justice Douglas will take on the television show.

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